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Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Pakistan:* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Reasserting its commitment to promoting desertification control, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development in arid areas and improving the lives of affected populations,

Determined to maintain and to boost the spirit of international solidarity generated by the designation of the year 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Reaffirming that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions in the world,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

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Emphasizing that desertification seriously threatens the ability of developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed developing goals and the Millennium Development Goals,

Concerned about the negative impacts of desertification, land degradation and climate change on each other,

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] which recognizes the Convention as one of the tools for poverty eradication,

Recognizing that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the need to provide stable, adequate and predictable financial resources and technical support in order to ensure the full implementation of the Convention in an efficient and timely manner,

Welcoming the decision of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider, among others, the issue of desertification during its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions,[4]

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Spain for hosting the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Madrid from 3 to 14 September 2007,

Expressing also its deep appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Buenos Aires from 12 to 21 March 2007,

Welcoming the offer made by the Government of Turkey to host the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Istanbul from 20 to 29 October 2008,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Reiterates its resolve* to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention with a view to addressing causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, technical assistance, the transfer of technology and the enhancement of capacity-building in developing countries;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme, taken at its

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[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution 1.

[5] A/62/276, annex II.

twenty-fourth session, to declare the decade 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;[6]

4. *Also welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth session, in its decision 3/COP.8, of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)[7] and invites all parties, the secretariat of the Convention and other institutions and supporting bodies to cooperate and coordinate their activities for a successful implementation of the strategy;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the financial contributions made by countries and other relevant stakeholders in support of the activities of the Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group on the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

6. *Takes note* of the request made for an assessment of the Global Mechanism by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations and looks forward to its findings;[8]

7. *Expresses its concern* that the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties did not agree on the budget for the biennial 2008-2009 and invites the Conference of the Parties at its first extraordinary session to be convened in New York on 26 November 2007 to adopt the proposed budget;

8. *Urges* the international community, in particular developed countries, to provide financial and technical support to the secretariat and affected countries parties to strengthen national, regional and international efforts to fully implement the convention, in accordance with decision 3/COP.8, containing the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

9. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] the Convention on Biological Diversity[10] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

10. *Also takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session to renew the mandate of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties;[11]

11. *Further takes note* of the December 2006 decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to invite the fourth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to amend the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility so as to list the United Nations

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[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/62/25), annex I, decision 24/14.

[7] A/C.2/62/7, annex, appendix.

[8] Ibid., sect. F, para. 27.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[11] ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, decision 10/COP.8.

Restructured Global Environment Facility so as to list the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification among the conventions for which the Facility plays the role of financial mechanism;[12]

12. *Urges* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to allocate adequate financial resources to the focal area on land degradation in the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

13. *Welcomes* the ongoing process of addressing the issue of adopting the euro as the budgetary currency of the Convention and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat, to facilitate the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to the protection of the Convention's budget against negative effects of currency fluctuations, including in the context of the implementation of paragraph 4 of part II of General Assembly resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006 on the replacement of the Integrated Management Information System with a next-generation enterprise resource planning system or other comparable system;

14. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention, in coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, to actively prepare for and participate in the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to ensuring that the Convention core issues, particularly those relating to land degradation, drought and desertification, are duly considered in the context of sustainable development during the deliberations of the review session, with a view to ensuring a successful outcome from the entire cycle of the Commission;

15. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[12] See document GEF/C.30/7 of 3 November 2006.